

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ROME

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FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO, UN, AORG

SUBJECT: GENEVA GROUP ROME (GGR)

REF: (A) STATE 63114; (B) ROME 5542; (C) STATE 75995

1. SUSPECT IT IS UNLIKELY GGR WILL GET DG INVOLVE HIMSELF IN CONTINUING DIALOGUE ON 1980/81 BUDGETARY PROCESS BUT HAVE CONCERN THE ADG WEST OFFER OF "INFORMAL EXCHANGES WITH INTERESTED MEMBERS" GGR MAY HAVE LIMITATIONS. THERE IS LITTLE WEST DOES ON SUCH MATTERS WITH MAJOR DONORS WITHOUT SPECIFIC AUTHORIZATION OR GENERAL GO-AHEAD FROM SAOUMA. TO IMPLY SUCH TALKS WOULD NOT HAVE DG'S APPROVAL IS DISINGENUOUS.

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2. IF YOU CAN EXTRACT AGREEMENT FROM WEST THAT DG WILL BE KEPT APPRAISED OF "INFORMAL EXCHANGES," SUCH TALKS, IN LIEU OF FORMAL CONSULTATIONS, MAY BE WORKABLE. THEY ARE BETTER THAN NO TALKS EVEN IF NEITHER SIDE COMMITTED.

3. YOU ARE CORRECT IN PRESSING FOR GREATER EVALUATION OF ON-GOING PROGRAMS IN P.C., PARTICULARLY NOW THAT

COMMITTEE IS GOVERNMENTAL. YOU MIGHT ARGUE IMPOSSIBILITY
OF COUNCIL EVER BEING ABLE TO CONDUCT SUCH A REVIEW
ITSELF AND NOTE THAT PLANNING (ONLY FIVE PROGRAMS FOR

EACH PROGRAM SESSION IN 1978 AND 1980)
REFLECTS MEMBER GOVERNMENT DESIRE TO HAVE A GREATER
DETAILED REVIEW. PARA 60, REPORT 72ND COUNCIL CITES THIS
AND NOTES THAT P.C. EFFORTS WILL EASE BURDEN ON COUNCIL
ITSELF. FAO DESIRE AVOID THIS CLOSER LOOK IS EVIDENT
IN DECISION NOT TO PROVIDE DOCUMENTATION BEYOND GENERAL
PRESENTATION IN C 77/3, PREPARED FOR 1977 CONFERENCE.

4. LOOKING TOWARDS FUTURE WORK OF P.C., IT WOULD BE
ADVISABLE IF COMMITTEE COULD MOVE ITEMS 3.2 INVESTMENT,
3.4 COUNTRY OFFICES AND 3.5 TECHNICAL COOPERATION
PROGRAM FROM SPRING 1980 AGENDA TO FALL 1978. ARGUMENT
WOULD BE (A) IMPORTANCE OF REVIEWING THESE PROGRAMS
PRIOR TO PLANNING FOR NEXT BIENNIUM AND (B) THAT WITH
THE MAJOR FISHERY AND FORESTRY COMMITTEES SCHEDULED
TO MEET IN MAY-JUNE 1978, THE P.C. REVIEW OF THEIR
PROGRAMS A FEW MONTHS LATER MIGHT BE DUPLICATIVE. PLEASE
NOTE PARA 61, CL 72/REP ENVISAGED P.C. REVISIONS TO THE
SCHEDULE OF PLANNED REVIEWS. COOPER

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